current year. In order to bridge the existing gap between the demand and supply of edible oils in the country, the import of edible oils under OGL by the private trade is likely to be continued. Fresh import of edible oil for PDS is likely to commence from March-April, 1996.

Prices of Essential Commodities

98. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of essential commodities in the country have been increasing for the last six months; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) A statement showing the variation in Wholesale Price Index of selected essential commodities for the last six months is enclosed (*See* below).

(b) The prices of certain commodities like vegetables, milk etc. have increased due to lean supply season, crop damages due to heavy rains, floods etc. The prices of pulses have gone up due to gap between demand and supply to the tune of about 5 lakh tonnes and limited imports due to lower availability and higher prices in the international market. The prices of certain edible oils increased due to the gap between the demand supply of edible oils in the country. The prices of foodgrains are influenced by the revision in the Minimum Support Prices, which in turn resulted in higher primary product prices and created pressure on the wage goods.

Statement

Percentage variation in the wholesale price indices of selected essential commodities during the last six months ending October, 1995 (May—October, 1995)

Commodity	Percentage variation
Rice	
Wheat	
Gram	
Arhar	
Vegetables	
Tea	
Sugar	
Salt	
Edible Oil	
(Sub-Group) All Commodities	

Mid-Term Appraisal of the Eighth Plan

99. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major findings of the draft document containing a mid-term appraisal of the Eighth Five Year Plan are reported to have been circulated in the Planning Commission;

(b) whether it is proposed to release this document to the public; and

(c) the adjustments contemplated in official policies and practices in the light of the contents of the document?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) Mid-term Appraisal (MTA) of the Eighth Plan is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission. Though a draft of the MTA was discussed in an Internal Meeting of the Planning Commission. MTA has not been discussed by the full Planning Commission. Which has to take a view in the matter.

(b) and (c) Do not arise at present.